

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the Conference Report for S. 250, legislation to reauthorize the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. This conference report is the product of an all too rare, bipartisan, good faith effort to pass real legislation that makes a difference in our communities across the Nation. This conference report also sends an important message to the President who has proposed to eliminate federal career and vocational education programs: These programs work and we are united in our support for them.

I am particularly pleased that this bill includes my amendment to encourage schools to develop individual graduation and career plans for students in career and technical education programs. Including graduation and career planning as an allowable activity under Perkins is one small step in addressing the pressing issue of our low graduation rates. These plans will help ensure that high school students graduate prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace.

Action is urgently needed to improve our high school graduation rates. The Manhattan Institute, the Harvard Civil Rights Project, and the Urban Institute have analyzed the data and come to the same conclusion—roughly 30 percent of all students who should be earning high school diplomas aren't. For African American and Hispanic students that number jumps to nearly 50 percent. Furthermore, only a fraction of students leaving our high schools are prepared for college. The Manhattan Institute found that nationally only 34 percent of students left high school prepared to enter a four-year college. Only 23 percent of African American students and only 20 percent of Hispanic students left high school prepared for college. We must mobilize our efforts across all of our education programs to turn this situation around. This legislation can be an important component of what I hope will be a national strategy to improve high schools.

I would also like to commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement to protect the integrity of the Tech Prep Program. This program has been tremendously successful in my district and across the State of Texas. Tech Prep programs have provided countless opportunities for our students to gain access to a rigorous academic curriculum, cutting edge technology, and college credit while still enrolled in high school.

I congratulate all of the members of the conference committee for their fine work, especially the committee chairmen and ranking members. This is legislation that we can all be proud to support.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY: CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTOR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual and community leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry.

I am joined in honoring Bishop Curry by my colleagues: JAMES R. LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, ED CASE of Hawaii, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, DIANE E. WATSON of California, WILLIAM LACY CLAY of Missouri, ARTUR DAVIS of Alabama, TIM RYAN of Ohio, JOHN BARROW of Georgia, ADAM SMITH of Washington, MIKE THOMPSON of California, FORTNEY H. "PETE" STARK of California, JOSEPH CROWLEY of New York, MIKE ROSS of Arkansas, STEPHEN F. LYNCH of Massachusetts, CHARLES GONZALEZ of New York, STEPHANIE HERSETH of South Dakota, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, CHARLIE MELANCON of Louisiana, PATRICK J. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, G.K. BUTTERFIELD of North Carolina, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, FRANK PALLONE, JR. of New Jersey, ALBERT R. WYNN of Maryland, SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio, RUSH HOLT of New Jersey, DAVID WU of Oregon, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, TIM BISHOP of New York, BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia, JIM MATHESON of Utah, DAVE REICHERT of Washington, JOHN S. TANNER of Tennessee, F. ALLEN BOYD, JR. of Florida, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, RAHM EMANUEL of Illinois, JOHN M. SPRATT of South Carolina, HENRY CUELLAR of Texas, HAROLD FORD, JR. of Tennessee, CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania, GWEN S. MOORE of Wisconsin, LEONARD L. BOSWELL of Iowa, RAUL M. GRIJALVA of Arizona, DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, AL GREEN of Texas, MICHAEL CAPUANO of Massachusetts, JOHN T. SALAZAR of Colorado, BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, JULIA CARSON of Indiana, JIM COOPER of Tennessee, CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK of Michigan, C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER of Maryland, EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, GREGORY W. MEEKS of New York, MICHAEL M. HONDA of California, DENNIS J. KUCINICH of Ohio, DALE E. KILDEE of Michigan, WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON of Louisiana, JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, IKE SKELTON of Missouri, JOSE SERRANO of New York, EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland, MELVIN L. WATT of North Carolina, BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, CHET EDWARDS of Texas, SANDER M. LEVIN of Michigan, MARION BERRY of Arkansas, NICK J. RAHALL of West Virginia, MAJOR R. OWENS of New York, GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi, JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, GENE GREEN of Texas, MAXINE WATERS of California, BART STUPAK of Michigan, ALCEE L. HASTINGS of Florida, LUIS V. GUTIERREZ of Illinois, JESSE JACKSON, JR. of Illinois, JOHN CONYERS, JR. of Michigan, SANFORD BISHOP, JR. of Georgia, BENNIE G. THOMPSON of Mississippi, SILVESTRE REYES of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, CORRIE BROWN of Florida, WILLIAM DELAHUNT of Mas-

sachusetts, RUBEN HINOJOSA of Texas, BILL PASCRELL, JR. of New Jersey, and SOLOMON P. ORTIZ of Texas.

On May 21st, Bishop Curry celebrated his 15th pastoral anniversary, and I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 15,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami on this happy occasion.

Bishop Curry's ministerial journey truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is leading his congregation and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the path to spiritual wisdom, social responsibility and good government.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but also the entire family of the "The Cathedral of Faith International."

His motto—"From Vision to Victory"—has impacted the lives of countless people, as Bishop Curry has carried forth his message of hope in person, in newspapers, on television, and on radio. He has demonstrated, both by word and by example, his unconditional love for and commitment to our children, the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and those less fortunate among us.

I therefore join with my colleagues, the congregation of the New Birth Baptist Church and our entire community in honoring Bishop Curry on his 15th pastoral anniversary and in wishing him many more in the years to come.

HONORING EDDIE WELLS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Eddie Wells, a ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park, recently received the Harry Yount Award, naming him the best ranger in the Southeastern Region of the National Park Service. The peer-nominated award recognizes and honors outstanding rangers who exemplify the highest standards of performance.

Mammoth Cave's Superintendent and fellow rangers cite Wells effective leadership skills, adaptability to change, and strong work ethic as requisites for his nomination. Ranger Wells' colleagues particularly emphasized his unique ability to communicate with a wide range of people, informing and educating park visitors and fellow employees on issues concerning emergency medical care, park regulations, and Mammoth Cave's history.

In addition to his duties as ranger, Eddie Wells leads a field training program at Mammoth Cave for graduates of the federal law enforcement center. He commits himself each session to coordinate the program in a way that each ranger can receive maxim benefit from the training. He is also a valuable and well-respected student mentor at the Great Onyx Job Corps Center.

Eddie Wells' service continues to significantly enhance park operations and community relations at Mammoth Cave. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail